

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175860

22

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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MEXICO FOR FISHATT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIS, VE, ICNAF

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FISHING RIGHTS

REF: (A) CARACAS 8438

1. EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE VENEZUELAN FIRM THAT MATTERS INVOLVING FOREIGN FISHING OFF U.S. COAST ARE UNDER PURVIEW OF DEPT. OF STATE AND NOT U.S. FISH AND WILD-LIFE SERVICE OF DEPT. OF INTERIOR.

2. SQUID AND FINFISH RESOURCES IN THE NORTHWESTERN ATLANTIC INCLUDING THOSE OFF THE U.S. COAST, ARE CURRENTLY UNDER THE MANAGEMENT REGIME OF THE 18-MEMBER UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 175860

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC

FISHERIES (ICNAF). MOST FISHERY RESOURCES OFF THE U.S. ATLANTIC COAST ARE IN A STATE OF SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED ABUNDANCE. SQUID OFF THE U.S. ATLANTIC COAST ARE CLEARLY FULLY UTILIZED AT THIS TIME AND SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS SUCH AS COUNTRY CATCH ALLOCATIONS AND OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES.

3. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS NO SQUID SURPLUS AND DEPT. MUST RESPOND IN NEGATIVE TO VENEZUELAN FIRMS REQUEST. POST SHOULD ALSO INFORM FIRM OF PASSAGE OF FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 WHICH ESTABLISHES AS OF MARCH 1, 1977 A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES CONSERVATION ZONE OFF U.S. COAST. AS OF MARCH 1, 1977, FOREIGN FISHING IN THE U.S. ZONE MAY BE CONDUCTED ONLY UNDER PERMITS ISSUED BY THE USG PURSUANT TO THE ACT AND TO THE TERMS OF A GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT OR TREATY BETWEEN THE USG AND THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRY OF THE FOREIGN FISHING VESSEL.

4. IN DETERMINING THE ALLOCATION AMONG FOREIGN NATIONS OF THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE LEVEL OF FOREIGN FISHING PERMITTED ON ANY FISHERY UNDER U.S. MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, DEPT. WOULD BE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT (A) WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT FISHING VESSELS OF SUCH NATIONS HAVE TRADITIONALLY ENGAGED IN SUCH FISHERY; (B) WHETHER SUCH NATIONS HAVE COOPERATED WITH U.S. IN RESEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES; (C) PAST COOPERATION WITH U.S. IN ENFORCEMENT RE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES; AND (D) OTHER MATTERS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY DEPT. IN COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE. UNDER THESE CRITERIA, AND IN VIEW OF POOR STOCK CONDITIONS, DEPT. WOULD NOT EXPECT VENEZUELA TO QUALIFY FOR AN ALLOCATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES OFF U.S. COAST IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. SEE ALSO STATE 093307 APRIL 76 AND STATE 090067 APRIL 76 FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON NEW 200-MILE LAW AND ITS IMPACT ON FOREIGN FISHERIES. KISSINGER

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